

From: Eric Eslinger
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/23/02 12:08pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

I feel that the Proposed Final Judgment in the Microsoft Antitrust case will do very little to benefit the people of the United States. The PFJ is essentially a wrist slap that allows Microsoft to continue its predatory business practices.

I feel that the crux of the matter is that third party developers of competing software and "middleware" are not protected at all by the PFJ. The definition of API and Middleware are overly narrow, and the actual disclosure is not sufficient.

Microsoft did a Bad Thing, and was found to be in violation of Antitrust laws. The punishment should be uncomfortable for them. Forcing them to completely open and disclose all of their operating system and application APIs would foster much healthier competition. In this market, where Microsoft tends to view bugs and security flaws as publicity problems rather than development problems, this kind of openness and the plugability it would foster would tremendously benefit not only the myriad smaller businesses that would better be able to compete; it would also benefit the end users of Microsoft software.

This is a single point about the PFJ that I feel is problematic. I do have other problems with the PFJ, and if you are interested in hearing more, feel free to contact me at any time.

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I can see a dream in your dance. I can see tomorrow in your dance! We can call it our hope!